Course Outline

This course will explore the dynamics of political change in post-Mao China through an examination of selected systemic challenges and regime responses. The primary focus will be on processes of institutional development and decay as the Party-State regime evolves from hard to soft authoritarianism. A secondary theme will deal with evolving state-society relations, exploring the regime’s efforts to manage an increasingly diverse and restive society. An important goal of the course will be to introduce students to the major scholarly debates within the contemporary China studies field, as well as to the primary and secondary materials available for empirical research on these questions.

Course Format and Requirements

The course will be organized as a colloquium/seminar centred on each class readings. Responsibility for summarizing and critiquing the readings will be rotated among seminar participants. Grades will be based on the following:

(1) Participation: 15%
(2).15 short reading summary/critiques (2 pages) 45%
   (3 points each, due in class on day of discussion)
(3) Biographic Exercise 3-5 pages, (Due: May 19) 15%
(4). Research Note, 8-10 pages (Due: June 17) 25%

Readings: Course-pack: available for purchase at T&T Copy Shop, 333 Bloor St. West. Initial readings and subsequent handouts will be distributed in class on a cost-recovery basis. The approximate charge will be $10.00 per student to be collected in class in the first week.

Topics and Readings:

May 10  Course Introduction; Problematics, Paradigms, and Hunches: Pekingology Revisited


May 11  China: ‘Resilient Authoritarianism’ or “Trapped Transition”? 
2. Minxin Pei, “Is China’s Transition Trapped and What should the West do about it?” Centre for Social and Legal Studies, University of Oxford, 2007/
4. Andrew Nathan, “Authoritarian Impermanence

May 12

**Chinese Perspectives on Systemic Challenges**


May 13

**Change as Process: Three Models**

2. Kellee S. Tsai, Capitalism Without Democracy, Chapters 2&7, (pp. 17-43; 200-221)

May 17

**Civil Society and its Critics**

3. Tony Saich, “Negotiating the State,” China Quarterly.

May 18

**Can the Party Re-invent itself?**


May 19

**Elite Conflict and Institutionalization/ Biographies**

1. Susan Shirk, (The Political Logic of Economic Reform, (1993), Chapter 4 (“Leadership Incentives.”))

May 20

No Class Meeting

May 24

**Victoria Day**

May 25

**Ideology and Legitimacy: Restoring Orthodoxy?**


May 26

**Managing Protest**


May 27  
No Class Meeting

May 31

**Combating Corruption**


June 1

**Making Law Work**


June 2  

**Decentralization, Development and Predation**

1. Minxin Pei, *China’s Trapped Transition*, pp.144-166.

June 3

**Village Democracy**

1. Minxin Pei, *China’s Trapped Transition*, pp. 72-80.
3. Tianjian Shi, “Insititutionalist Tactics for Democracy,”

June 7

**China’s Rising Middle Class: Force for Change?**

June 8

**Media and Political Change**

1. Wengfang Tang, Public Opinion and Political Change in China, Chapter 4. (“Media Control and Public Opinion”)

June 9

**Public Opinion and Value Change in China**


June 10

**Labour Politics in Post-Deng China**


June 14

**Official vs. Popular Nationalism**

1. Zhou Yongming, Historicizing Online Politics: Telegraphy, The Internet and Political Participation in China, Chapter 9. (“Informed Nationalism”)

June 15-17

**Research Presentations**